Implementation of Irrigation Projects under AIBP

1623. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of irrigation projects taken up under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was very poor;

(b) if so, what are the projects taken up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, how many were completed and what is the irrigation potential targeted and actually created during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the tardy implementation and steps being taken to complete the projects on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, implementation, funding as well as priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the State Governments, Central Government provides financial assistance under AIBP in order to facilitate the State Governments. Central Government provides financial assistance under AIBP in order to facilitate the State Governments to complete ongoing projects under AIBP. After the commencement of AIBP in 1996-97, the rate of creation of irrigation potential has substantially increased from plan in which, substantial contribution is from the projects included in AIBP. The plan wise contribution in the creation of irrigation potential from the projects included in AIBP with reference to total potential created from all the projects is given in the following Table:

Plan Period	Total Potential Created in mHA	Potential Created From AIBP in mHA	Annual Rate of Potential Created	Percentage Potential Contribution of AIBP
1	2	3	4	5
7th	2.22	3.03*	0.44 mHA 0.44	40
9th	2.21		mHA 1.64 mHA	57
10th	4.10		1.06 mHA	
	5.30*			

*provisional

(b) During 10th plan, 79 projects/project components were included in AIBP of which 10 projects/project components have been completed. Most of the remaining projects are on schedule. Total targeted irrigation potential from all major and medium projects included in AIBP is 8.276 mha and potential created from major and medium projects up to March, 2006 is 3.74 mha. of the 5562 minor irrigation schemes included in AIBP, 4187 schemes have been completed up to March, 2006.

(c) The Government of India has initiated several measures for expeditious completion of ongoing projects under AIBP which include vigorous monitoring of projects, linking utilization of Central Assistance to physical achievements in terms of potential creation, release of grants based on the Memorandum of Understanding and Utilization Certificates and conversion of grant provided into Loan in case the project targets are not achieved.

Central Assistance under AIBP to Cover Drought Prone Areas

1624. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have relaxed the criteria for Central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to cover drought prone areas identified under the Prime Ministers' package for agrarian distress in an attempt to give irrigation coverage a hard push;

(b) if so, whether the relaxation is expected to put the completion of pending irrigation projects on the fast track;

(c) whether the Bharat Nirman plan seeks to create 10 million hectare additional assured irrigation by 2009; and

(d) if so, to what extent this reorganizing role will provide better food production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The criteria for AIBP has been relaxed by the Government following the decision of Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 16th November, 2006. Accordingly, the projects included in Prime Minister's Relief package for agrarian distress